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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT NO. [redacted]

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COUNTRY USSR/Austria
SUBJECT New Weapons in Soviet Army in Austria

DATE DISTR. 10 Sept 1954
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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NEW SOVIET WEAPONS IN AUSTRIA

1. 7.62-mm Semiautomatic Carbine Model SKS

a. Appearance in Austria

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[redacted] to the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn in Austria, a shipment of new carbines known as the 7.62-mm "Samozaryadnyy Karabin Simonova" (see Encl A) arrived in May 1954. The number of weapons received was unknown [redacted] there were enough to replace each 7.62-mm Mossin-Nagant M1944 Carbine [redacted] The weapons were accompanied by manuals, [redacted] the title - Samozaryadnyy Karabin Simonova Pod Patron Obraztsa 1943 (Self-loading Carbine Simonov Used with Cartridge Model 1943).

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[redacted] no instruction was given to troops relative to the weapon's characteristics, functioning, disassembly, and assembly [redacted] When the weapons first arrived in the battalion, [redacted] company CO informed the troops that a new weapon was to be issued at a later date and that it was a better weapon than the one in use. [redacted] the officers of the regiment received instruction on the new carbine and the 7.62-mm AVTOMAT. During March and April 1954, these officers received two or three hours of instruction once or twice a week on the new weapons.

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50X1 In appearance, the new carbine was very similar to the 7.62-mm Mossin-Nagant M1944 Carbine with respect to overall length, weight, integral box magazine, sights, and the permanently attached knife-type folding bayonet. The operation of the carbine, [redacted] appeared to be similar to the operation of the US Cal .30 M1 Rifle.

b. Characteristics

Caliber	7.62 mm	
Operation	Gas, semiautomatic	
Cooling	Air	
Magazine	Integral box, 10-round capacity	
Range	Unknown	
Rate of fire	Unknown	
Muzzle velocity	Unknown	
Length w/o bayonet	36-40 inches	
Bayonet Length	About 12 inches	
Weight	About seven pounds	
Barrel length	Unknown	
Rifling	Appeared to be the same as the M1944 Carbine, which has four lands and grooves, right-hand twist	
Stock	Wooden, w/hand guard over barrel	
Sights		
Rear	Tangent curve, graduated from 100 to 700 to 1,000 m	
Front	Open post w/ circular guard	
Optical	Unknown	
Muzzle attachments	Unknown	
Sling	Unknown	
[redacted]	[redacted]	
Place of manufacture	KOVROV (N 56-25, E 41-18), USSR. [redacted]	50X1
50X1 [redacted]	[redacted] there were small arms plants there, [redacted] the new carbine could have been manufactured there.	50X1
Date of issue to troops in USSR	1951, according to hearsay	
50X1 Date of issue to troops in Austria	June 1954 [redacted]	
Ammunition		
Caliber	7.62 mm	
Model	M1943	
Overall Length	About 2½ inches	
Weight	Unknown	
Bullet		
Weight	Unknown	
Type	Ball and another type with a red tip.	50X1
	[redacted]	
Length	About 7/8 inch (that portion which protrudes from the cartridge case)	
Type metal	Unknown - color of metal similar to standard M1930 pistol ammunition	
Cartridge case		
Type	Rimless necked	
Length	About 1 5/8 inches	
Propellant	Unknown	
Type metal	Unknown - color of case similar to standard M1930 pistol ammunition	
50X1 [redacted]	[redacted]	

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c. Detailed Description of Carbine

(1) Barrel Assembly

50X1 The length of the barrel could not be estimated. 50X1
50X1 a gas cylinder and recoil rod and spring
were mounted under the barrel forward of the receiver
group. The rear portion of the piston rod was connected
50X1 in some manner to a lug which was an integral part of the
bolt. The exact location of the recoil spring was unknown.
50X1 the spring was mounted forward of the
bolt lug and recoil rod connection, 50X1
it might have been to the rear of this connection (see Encl B).
No further information.

(2) Bolt Assembly

50X1 The bolt assembly consisted of a bolt handle, two bolt
50X1 lugs (one on each side of the forward portion of the bolt),
extractor, and firing pin. The type of firing pin and
the location of the ejector were unknown. 50X1
only the forward portion of the bolt rotated for
locking. 50X1 if the bolt was not fully closed
the weapon would not fire.

(3) Stock

The weapon had a wooden stock with a metal butt plate. A
cleaning accessory compartment, including a small metal
cylinder for cleaning and a collapsible cleaning rod, was
located in the butt housing.

(4) Ammunition

The ammunition was a newly developed type which could also
be fired in the following new weapons: 7.62-mm AVTOMAT
SMG and 7.62-mm LMG.

d. Method of Issuing Carbine

50X1 each individual was to be issued a rectangular
aluminum tag with the letters "KR" (denoting "Carbine") and the
serial number of the weapon stamped thereon. This tag was to
be turned in when receiving the weapon and returned to the
individual when the weapon was returned. A master list of serial
numbers with the name of the individual assigned to the weapon
was maintained by each company first sergeant. 50X1

2. 7.62-mm AVTOMAT SMG

50X1 a. 50X1 a shipment
50X1 of new SMGs known as the 7.62-mm AVTOMAT arrived in May 1954.
50X1 The number of weapons received was unknown 50X1
50X1 enough were received to replace each 7.62-mm PPSH
50X1 M1941 SMG 50X1 The weapon was first seen and handled 50X1
50X1 in May 1954 50X1
50X1 the new weapon,
50X1 was a better weapon than the PPSH M1941 SMG, and 50X1
50X1 it would be issued soon.

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In appearance the AVTOMAT was very similar to the new 7.62-mm Semiautomatic Carbine Model SKS, relative to the barrel, receiver, and gas mechanism. Both weapons fired the same ammunition (M1943 round).

b. Characteristics

Caliber	7.62 mm
Operation	Gas, full automatic
Cooling	Air
Magazine	Box, believed to be curved, 30-round capacity
Range	Unknown
Rate of fire	Unknown
Muzzle velocity	Unknown
Overall length	Slightly longer than the PPSH M1941 SMG (33 inches)
Weight w/ loaded magazine	About 12 pounds
Barrel length	Longer than the PPSH M1941 SMG
Rifling	Unknown
Stock	Wooden w/ pistol grip behind trigger group
Sights	
Rear	Tangent curve, graduated up to 800 m
Front	Open post w/ circular guard
Optical	Unknown
Muzzle attachments	Unknown
Sling	Fabric, right side
Place of manufacture	KOVROV. there were small arms plants there, and the new SMG could have been manufactured there.
Date of issue to troops in USSR	1951, according to hearsay
Date of issue to troops in Austria	June 1954, to 1st Co. 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn
Ammunition	
Caliber	7.62 mm
Model	M1943
Overall length	About 2 1/2 inches
Weight	Unknown
Bullet	
Weight	Unknown
Type	Ball and another type having a red tip.
Length	About 7/8 inch (that portion which protrudes from the cartridge case)
Type Metal	Unknown - color of metal similar to standard M1930 pistol round
Cartridge case	
Type	Rimless necked
Length	About 1 5/8 inches
Propellant	Unknown
Type metal	Unknown - color of case similar to standard M1930 pistol round

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c. Method of Issuing AVTOMAT

50X1 [redacted] each individual was to be issued a circular aluminum tag with the letters "AVT" (denoting "AVTOMAT") and the serial number of the weapon stamped thereon. This tag was to be turned in when receiving the weapon and returned to the individual when the weapon was returned. A master list of serial numbers with the name of the individual assigned to the weapon was maintained by each company first sergeant. [redacted]

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3. T-54 Medium Tank

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- a. [redacted] a new Soviet medium tank, the T-54, was being issued to Soviet troops in the USSR [redacted]
- 50X1 b. The main armament was said to be a 100-mm gun; it was supposedly the same as the one carried in the SU-100 SP vehicle.
- 50X1 c. The turret and hull were reputed to be similar in design to those of the JS-3 heavy tank.
- d. The turret was reputed to have a lower silhouette than the T-34/85 medium tank.
- 50X1 e. [redacted] there was an electrical heating system for the tank crew.
- 50X1 f. [redacted] a diesel engine was positioned at right angles (crossways) to the hull. 1.
- 50X1 g. In December 1954 the T-54 was to replace the T-34/85 and the T-34/76 tanks [redacted] (Note: the T-34/76 tanks were used only as training vehicles in the unit.) The unit was supposed to receive 62 of the new T-54 Tanks.
- h. The tank crew was said to consist of three or four men (probably three).
- 50X1 i. The tank was said to have been equipped with radar tracking equipment for night and indirect firing. (Note: [redacted] special efforts were made to obtain additional data regarding the alleged radar equipment employed in the T-54. [redacted] radar tracking equipment was used in the T-54.)
- j. The vehicle was designed to serve as a dual-purpose vehicle; either in the role of a tank or as self-propelled artillery.

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4. Other Weapons and vehicles

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a. Small Arms

- (1) New long-barrel pistol: similar in construction to the 7.63-mm automatic German Mauser. Caliber was about 12 mm. To be issued only to platoon leaders.
- (2) New small caliber pistol: to be issued to all staff officers. Caliber unknown; reputed to be smaller than the 7.62-mm TT pistol.
- (3) New 7.62-mm LMG: used belt ammunition housed in a magazine. Weapon said to be invented by a (fnu) KALASHNIKOV. Used the new M1943 round, the same type of ammunition as that fired by the 7.62-mm Model SKS Carbine and the 7.62-mm AVTOMAT SMG.

b. Artillery

- (1) New automatic AA gun: caliber 45 or 57 mm. To replace the 37-mm M1939 AA Gun; [redacted] No further information. 50X1
- (2) New semiautomatic or full automatic radar-controlled 85-mm AA Gun: employed a muzzle brake. [redacted] No further information. 50X1

c. Wheeled Vehicles

[redacted] a Shop Repair Truck mounted on a ZIS-151 chassis; [redacted] It had an electric generator capable of supplying enough power to show movies during power shortages. 2. 50X1

3 Encls:

- A. 7.62-mm Semiautomatic Carbine Model SKS
- B. Detail Sketch, 7.62-mm Semiautomatic Carbine SKS Bolt Assembly
- C. 7.62-mm AVTOMAT Submachine Gun

1. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] the engine was mounted in this manner. 50X1
2. [redacted] Comment: The vehicle as described and later identified in photographs was the TRM-B-49 Tank Repair Shop Truck. [redacted] 50X1

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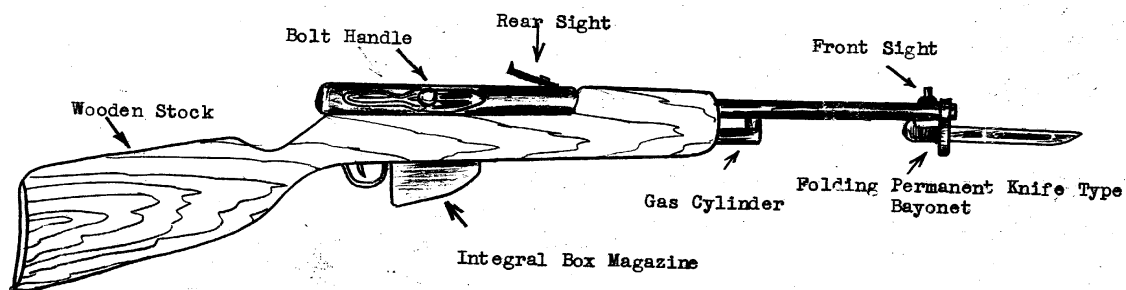
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7.62-mm Semiautomatic Carbine Model SKS

Enclosure A

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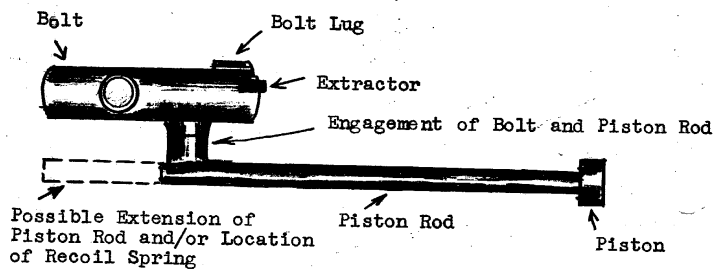
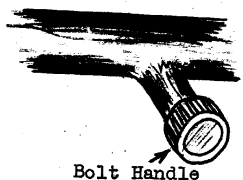
Detail Sketch, 7.62-mm Semiautomatic Carbine Model SKS Bolt Assembly

Enclosure B

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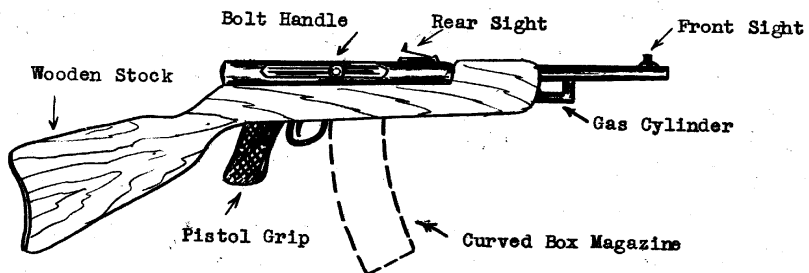
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7.62-mm AVTOMAT Submachine Gun

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Enclosure C

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